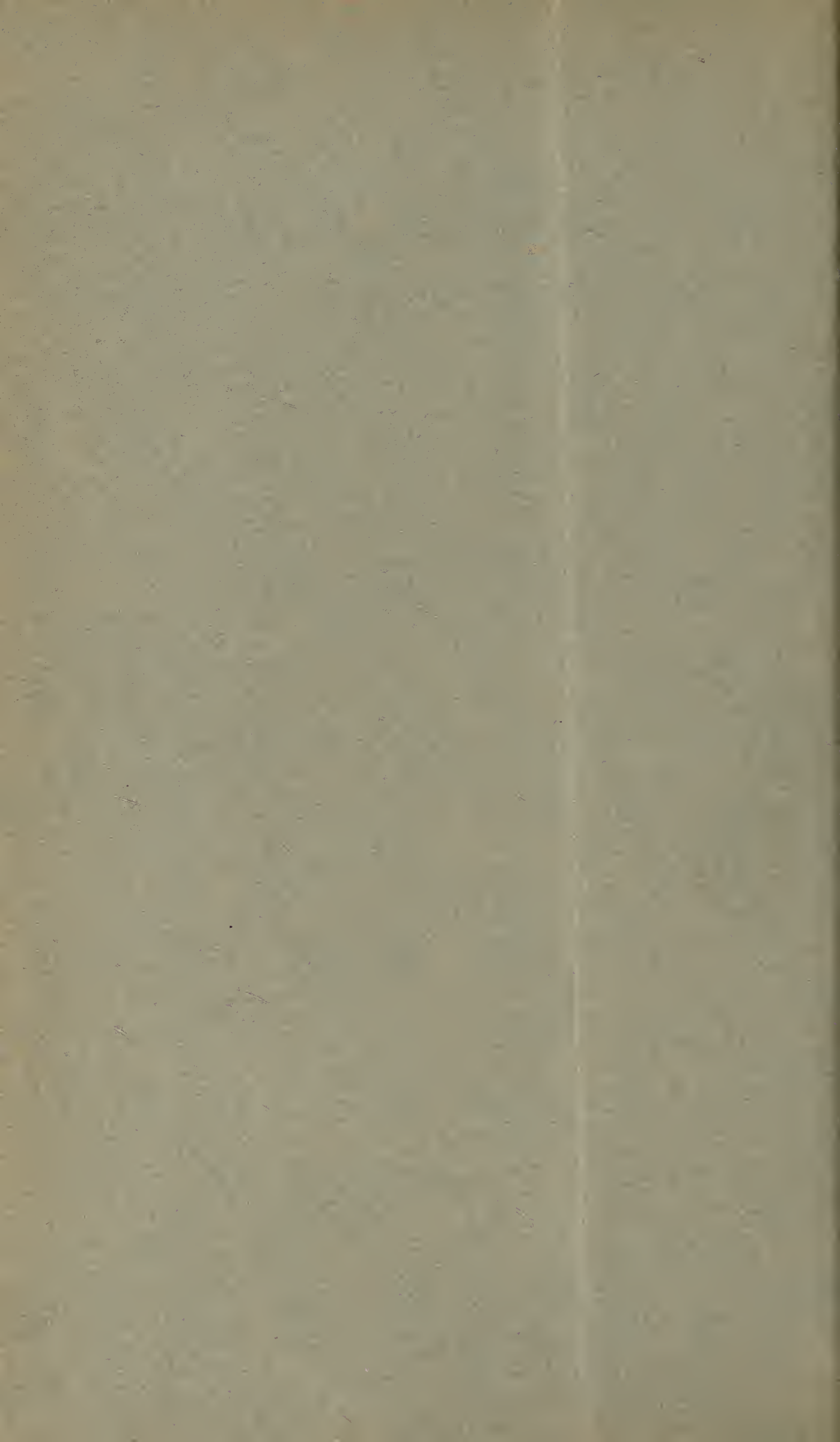




BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1954**



TOWN HALL,
LYMINGTON.
JULY, 1955.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report for the year 1954.

Regarding vital statistics. Of the 357 residents who died, 237 were over 70 years of age; of these 237 deaths, 114 occurred in the age group 70 to 80 years, 104 between 80 and 90 years, 18 were 90 years, and there was one over 100 years of age.

The death rate of 15.5 per 1,000 estimated population of 22,960 when multiplied by the comparability factor becomes 10.07 per 1,000 as against 11.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 3; one of these occurred during the first four weeks of life and give a low infant mortality figure as compared with a high one in 1952.

The death rate from Tuberculosis was lower, being 0.17 per 1,000 estimated population.

Of the 72 deaths due to Malignant Disease 10 were caused by cancer of the lung, or bronchus; of these deaths 2 were females, and 8 males, all over 55 years of age.

Deaths caused by accident numbered 14 and in 4 of these cases a motor vehicle was involved.

The birth rate of 11.89 per 1,000 of the population becomes 14.02 when multiplied by the comparability factor as against 15.2 for England and Wales.

The total birth rate of live and still births was 11.97 there being 2 still births and 273 live births.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Lymington Borough is a district of 15,302 acres, which includes 1,572 acres of mudland. The area is very largely agricultural in character, and has three main shopping and residential districts, namely Lymington Town on the eastern side of the district, New Milton on the west, and Milford-on-Sea on the south. In addition to these are two other districts, namely, Hordle which is north of Milford-on-Sea, and Pennington which adjoins Lymington Town. Following the removal of building restrictions development in all parts of the Borough is proceeding quite rapidly.

The Borough is ideally situated, having the New Forest on its northern border, the sea on the south, and the large shopping centres of Bournemouth, and Southampton within easy reach.

The number of inhabited houses in the Borough is made up of 7,232 separate dwellinghouses, 614 business premises with living accommodation, 176 farm houses and farm cottages. 304 premises occupied as summer holiday residences are not included.

DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	13,730
Population	22,960
Number of inhabited houses	8,022
Rateable Value	£196,499
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£770

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population ...	11.89
Live Births	273	137	136	Comparative figure	14.02
Legitimate	254	129	125	England and Wales	15.2
Illegitimate	19	8	11	Rate per 1,000 (live & still births) ...	14.5
Still Births				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population ...	15.5
Legitimate	2	1	1	Comparative figure	10.07
Deaths	357	186	171	England and Wales	11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—	Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	10.9
England and Wales	25.5
Infants under 4 weeks	3.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	3.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	105.2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Gastro Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

The chief causes of death were:—

Malignant Disease ..	72	Influenza	1
Coronary Disease		Tuberculosis (Resp.)	4
(Angina) ...	53	Vascular Lesions of	
Heart Disease ...	56	Nervous System	53
Other Circulatory		Suicide	1
Disease ...	13	Motor Vehicle	
Pneumonia ...	18	Accidents ...	4
Bronchitis ...	9	All other accidents .	10

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers:—

- (a) Medical Officer of Health:
E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.
- (b) Senior Sanitary Inspector:
N. Raw, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
- (c) Additional Sanitary Inspector:
J. G. Jenkins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(2) General Health Service:—

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Examinations made at the Hampshire County Laboratories, and Public Health Laboratory.
- (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—Provided by the Hampshire County Council as the Local Health Authority. Ambulances stationed at Lymington and New Milton. Infectious cases—ambulance headquarters at Lymington.
- (c) **Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics** are provided by the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. In this Borough the following are the facilities provided:—
 Ante-Natal Clinic: Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington.
 Child Welfare Centres:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington | Every Friday |
| Women's Institute Hall, Hordle | 3rd Wednesday |
| Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea | 4th Thursday |
| Church Hall, New Milton | 2nd & 4th Wednesday |
| Church Hall, Ashley, New Milton | 3rd Monday |
| Women's Institute, Pennington | 2nd & 4th Tuesday |
- (d) **Protective Treatment against Diphtheria.**—All children can receive free protective treatment by their own doctor; at Child Welfare Centres; or by the Medical Officer of Health at the Council Offices, New Milton. Treatment at the Schools is also given by the Council's Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section of the report deals chiefly with the sanitary inspection of the district and includes the report and observations of Mr. Raw, the Council's Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply:—

There are two water undertakings supplying the Borough; Lymington Town served by the Corporation owned works at Am-press, the remainder of the district obtaining its supply from the West Hampshire Water Company.

Mains water is available throughout the greater part of the district, only a few outlying dwellings having to rely on Well water supplies. The water as supplied from the mains has been adequate and the quality is satisfactory.

The number of occupied dwellings in the Borough is 8,022 and so far as is known 8,005 are provided with water from the mains. 17 properties remain on Well supplies and in 12 instances the mains water is not reasonably available.

The estimated number of the population served by the mains water is 22,911.

During the year, seven samples of Well water were taken, 6 for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical analysis.

The reports all showed that the supplies were bacteriologically wholesome. In the case of the Well water submitted to chemical analysis the water was found to be exceptionally soft. This latter report was obtained following a complaint from the owner of the Well that the water was very discoloured. The discolouration was due to a brown deposit which consisted almost entirely of iron oxide, the deposit being caused by the action of the very soft and acid water attacking the iron of the tanks, pipes and boiler. The complainant was advised to either connect to the mains water or to renew the essential parts of the water system in copper.

The mains have now been extended to serve Nos. 1 and 2, Hoopers Hill Cottages, New Milton, where the Well supply had given cause for concern for some time. Mains water has also been provided to a house in Silver Street, Hordle, where the Well supply had not been entirely satisfactory.

LYMINGTON TOWN'S SUPPLY

The output from the Ampress Water Works was approximately 119,000,000 gallons, an increase of 3,000,000 gallons over 1953. 7,000,000 gallons was sold to the West Hampshire Water Company through Pennington and Beaulieu bulk supplies. Extensions to the mains were carried out to serve the new properties at Fairfield, Lymington; 21 new tapplings were made.

The bore hole levels have remained steady and the quality of the water has been good.

14 samples of the Town's Supply were taken, 3 being taken at the Water Works prior to chlorination, these latter were all satisfactory. Two reports on other samples taken indicated that the water was not up to the required standard, but on further investigation the cause of the trouble was found to be due to contamination of the tap itself.

WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY serving New Milton, Milford-on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle.

During the year the West Hampshire Water Company has laid 3,611 yards of new mains and the number of new tapplings for the year was 333. The mains laid were :

3" diameter	...	1,825 yards
2" diameter	...	320 yards
1½" diameter	...	207 yards
1¼" diameter	...	687 yards
1" diameter	...	282 yards
¾" diameter	...	290 yards

The Company now employ a full time qualified chemist and bacteriologist at the Works and daily sampling of the supply is carried out.

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Some progress has now been made in providing main drainage facilities in private streets. I have reported previously on drainage difficulties at West Way and Greenlands Estate, Pennington, and it is satisfactory to know that the sewers have now been extended to these streets. The Council too has now agreed to lay the sewer to serve High Street, Milford-on-Sea, where the drainage has seriously polluted the Danestream. I hope this scheme will be treated as one of urgency and completed in 1955.

Consent has now been received to carry out works to relieve the sewerage system in Old Milton and these very necessary works should be completed during 1955.

The extension of the sewer to serve properties in Woodcock Lane and Cottagers Lane, Hordle, which has been agreed by the Council will remedy drainage difficulties in this area which have been of concern to me for some time.

Whilst recommending the advisability of extending the sewers to serve areas which have become developed, this additional load on the sewerage system is bound to have some affect on the efficiency of the present method of sewerage disposal, and this aspect should be borne in mind.

There still remains other built-up parts of the district where main drainage is not available and where difficulties of sewage disposal are apparent. During the year my particular attention has been drawn to the properties in the areas Golden Hill and Lavender Road, Hordle, Spring Lane and Andrew Lane, Ashley, and at Ridgeway Lane, Lymington. Further building development in these parts will add to the difficulties and I suggest that the area should be surveyed with a view to the preparation of a programme to deal with the unsewered built-up parts during the next five years or so. Many of the houses in these areas, except in Ridgeway Lane, drain either directly, or indirectly, into the Dane-stream.

Defects to drainage systems were found in 32 instances and of these 26 were remedied during the year.

Regarding connection to the main sewer the following are the details of houses connected, that previously were on cesspool drainage, or had no proper drainage system :

Pennington area	...	...	18 houses connected
New Milton area	...	...	2 houses connected
Milford-on-Sea area	...	...	4 houses connected

In addition, improved drainage systems were installed at three other properties where cesspool/septic tank schemes were constructed.

Public Cleansing:—

Refuse collections and disposal is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. There is now a weekly collection of refuse throughout the whole of the area and the main shopping areas have two collections weekly. This year started the collection of the dustbins from their household position, and the absence of dustbins near to, or on the pavements, has improved the general appearance of the thoroughfares on collection days. The service too, I think, is more efficient by this method.

The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at a central site in the Hordle district. Once more the householders in the vicinity were visited by a plague of flies in their homes and in many cases the conditions, as a result, were a positive menace as well as being a considerable source of annoyance. The bulky nature of the refuse renders control difficult and adequate coverage by soil is costly. Early steps were taken by the Borough Engineer to deal with the trouble at the site, and conditions alleviated considerably. Householders were supplied with insecticides.

Rivers and Streams:—

Further investigations of the Danestream were carried out during the year, 6 samples were taken at various points, 4 for bacteriological examination, and 2 for chemical analysis. The analysis was negative for organisms of the Salmonella groups but the indications were that the stream became more heavily polluted as it neared Milford-on-Sea. Inspections of properties near to the stream, excluding properties in High Street, Milford-on-Sea, revealed the following drainage arrangements in the Milford and Hordle districts.

Cesspool with drains direct to the stream	...	...	...	11
Cesspool (effluent filtered) and thence to stream	...	...	...	1
Cesspool draining to ditches and thence to stream	...	...	...	3
Septic Tanks with overflow to stream	...	...	...	2
Domestic sinks only, draining to stream	...	...	...	7
Cesspools apparently satisfactory	...	...	...	14
Cesspools unsatisfactory, but not draining to stream	...	...	...	4
Houses without drainage systems	...	...	...	2

Whilst efforts continue to be made to deal with river pollution from private domestic drainage systems, the only real satisfactory answer is the provision of main drainage facilities to all built-up parts of the borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1954.

DESCRIPTION	Inspections	Action reqd.	Remedied	NOTICES	
				In-formal	Statutory
Milk and Dairies	149	9	9	5	—
Dwellinghouses:					
(Housing Act)	253	16	14	10	—
(Public Health Act) ...	169	19	15	12	1
Council House Applications ...	151	—	—	—	—
Drainage Visits and Tests ...	628	53	47	14	—
Water Supplies	46	5	—	—	—
Camp Sites and Moveable Dwellings ...	163	7	6	2	—
Schools	8	—	—	—	—
Factories Act	169	19	14	4	—
Business Premises	10	—	—	—	—
Food & Drugs Act	351	43	34	21	—
Food Inspections	133	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	27	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses/Knackers Yards	62	—	—	—	—
Refuse Sites	17	—	—	—	—
Piggeries	9	1	1	—	—
Complaints and Nuisances ...	113	43	40	—	—
Infectious and Notifiable Diseases	32	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	22	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation ...	80	—	—	—	—
Sea Water Baths	8	—	—	—	—
House Pests	29	2	2	—	—
Watercourses	6	—	—	—	—
Re Flooding	48	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	68	—	—	—	—
Total	2651	217	187	68	1
Rats & Mice	2746	431	422x	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	10	—	—	—	—
Grand Total	5407	648	609	68	1

x indicates treatment given.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 148 registered factories in the district and 169 inspections were made during the year. Details of defects and results of action taken are as follows:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Defects Found	Remedied
Non-power Factories ...	37	33	19	14
Power Factories ...	111	136		

Analysis of Defects			Found	Remedied
Particulars				
Want of Cleanliness ...	...	...	7	4
Sanitary Conveniences				
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	5	4
Insufficient	...	...	3	2
Other offences	...	...	4	4

Types of Factories Registered.

Builders and Ancillary Works	...	33
Garages	...	24
Dairies	...	5
Boat Builders	...	4
Tailors	...	4
Radio, Cycle and Electrical	...	13
Bakehouses	...	14
Laundries	...	4
Engineering	...	7
Boot Repairers	...	7
Printing Works	...	4
Upholstery	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	25

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

69 complaints were received and action was required in only 43 of these. The nature of the defects and result of action taken are as follows :

Nature of Defect	Found	Remedied
Housing defects	10	9
Drainage defects	13	11
Fumes	2	2
Insanitary deposits	2	2
House Pests	10	10
Miscellaneous	6	6
Total	43	40

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 7 registered dairies and 12 registered distributors of milk within the Borough. Milk is pasteurised under licence at five dairies, four under the Holder process (milk retained at a temperature between 145°F and 150°F for at least 30 minutes), and the other by the H.T.S.T. method (milk heated to not less than 161°F for at least 15 seconds). By delegated powers from the County, these plants are licensed by this Council and are kept under observation by officers of the Health Department. Samples of the pasteurised milk are taken from each dairy at least once per month, and laboratory examination of washed bottles is carried out periodically.

Generally the dairies have been kept in reasonably satisfactory condition, and the chief defects have again been the maintenance of the Recording and Indicating thermometers. Complaints of souring of milk were investigated and samples of raw milk were taken on delivery at the dairies. The milk from 9 farms failed to pass the methylene blue test and these were referred to the Milk Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Whether or not anything was found to be wrong at the farms or if defects, if any, were remedied is not known and I can only assume in the absence of further complaint that any remedial measures required at the farms were carried out.

Details of sampling and of defects, etc., are as follows :—

DAIRY A.—15 samples of pasteurised milk taken, one failed the phosphatase test. Failure probably due to inaccurate readings of thermometers. Test sampling of washed bottles gave the satisfactory count of 200 colonies. Defective recording thermometers remedied.

DAIRY B.—20 samples of pasteurised milk taken, all passed the test. Two batches of washed bottles were submitted for examination and the counts of 70 and 379 were satisfactory. Complaints of milk souring at this dairy were investigated and 49 samples of raw milk from 25 farms as delivered to the dairy were tested. Nine of the samples failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and this was reported to the appropriate department of the Ministry of Agriculture. A smoke nuisance arising from the boiler at this dairy was dealt with and the position is now satisfactory.

DAIRY C.—12 samples of pasteurised milk taken, all passed the test. Two batches of washed bottles were examined at the laboratory. one gave a count of 1,500 which is considered only fairly satisfactory; a sample taken after this gave the satisfactory count of 100. Recording and Indicating thermometers were out of order in the beginning of the year, but after some delay these were remedied.

DAIRY D.—12 samples of pasteurised milk taken, all satisfactory. Two batches of samples of washed bottles were taken, the first gave a high count of 2,100 colonies, and following investigation the second batch gave the satisfactory count of 350. Chief defects were the delay in the repair of Indicating thermometers.

DAIRY E.—14 samples of pasteurised milk taken, one failed the phosphatase test. One batch of washed bottles was submitted to the laboratory and the count of 400 was satisfactory.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

Class of Milk	No. of samples tested	Appropriate Tests	Samples Passed Failed	
Pasteurised	41	Phosphatase	39	2
		Methylene Blue	41	—
T.T. Pasteurised	33	Phosphatase	33	—
		Methylene Blue	33	—
Raw	55	Methylene Blue	46	9

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, etc.

There are 3 small licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough and one licensed Knackers Yard. Two of the slaughterhouses are sited in congested areas, although structurally they are in fairly reasonable condition. The third slaughterhouse is suitably sited but the structure required improvement, and it is anticipated that the required work will be completed in 1955.

Following the removal of restrictions the slaughterhouses above were again brought into use and the following carcasses were inspected.

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	... 37	-	32	4	106
Number inspected	... 35	-	29	-	102
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses part, or organ condemned	13	-	-	-	19
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcasses, part or organ condemned	3	-	-	-	16

The following foods were examined at retail shops and condemned :—

Beef	...	...	Bone taint, etc.	...	333 lbs.
Pork	...	...	Sour	...	51 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	Sour	...	15½ lbs.
Other Meats	...	...	Decomposition	...	21 lbs.
Turkey	...	...	Decomposition	...	11¼ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	Sour	...	51 lbs.
Fish	...	...	Stale, etc.	...	70¾ lbs.
Prawns	...	...	Stale, etc.	...	23½ lbs.
Lambs Heads	...	...	Decomposition	...	18 lbs.
Pigs Livers	...	...	Decomposition	...	60 lbs.
Butter	...	...	Rancid	...	7½ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	Mould	...	5 lbs.
Pork Pies	...	...	Stale	...	6 lbs.
Tins of Meat	...	...	Blown, leaking, etc.	...	135
" " Milk	...	...	" " "	...	100
" " Fruit	...	...	" " "	...	214
" " Vegetables	...	...	" " "	...	67
" " Jams	...	...	" " "	...	4
" " Soups	...	...	" " "	...	51
" " Fish	...	...	" " "	...	41
" " Cream	...	...	" " "	...	5
" " Peas/Beans	...	...	" " "	...	21

Fish is now very largely being transported by road and requests for examination of doubtful fish has decreased.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

Food Premises — Ice Cream

There are 255 food premises in the Borough comprising :—

Restaurants, Hotels, Snack Bars, etc.	...	55
Fishmongers, Fish Fryers	...	16
Butchers	...	22
Greengrocers	...	28
Grocery and Provisions	...	78
Bakers	...	14
Confectioners	...	42

Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream:—

Grocers	...	40
Cafe and Confectionery	...	38
Confectionery only	...	32
General Stores	...	11
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	3

Total ... 124

Number of registered Dairies ... 7

Number of premises registered for the preparation of Preserved Foods:—

Fried Fish	...	5
Grocers	...	8
Butchers	...	22
Bakers	...	2
Cooked Meat	...	1

Total ... 38

Inspection of premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act ...	131
Inspection of premises registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations ...	149
Inspection of other Food Premises ...	227

43 defects in food premises were found. Redecoration work was carried out in 21 premises, and other defects at 13 food premises were remedied.

Three food shops were provided with hot water washing facilities, bringing the total number provided at the request of the Health Department during recent years to 61.

No Ice Cream is now manufactured in the Borough, supplies for the retailer being obtained from nine manufacturers outside the Borough. Actual retailers of Ice Cream has increased from 85 in 1953 to 103 in 1954; 31 in the Lymington area, 46 in New Milton, 16 at Milford-on-Sea, and others 10.

55 samples of Ice Cream were taken and the results with one exception were satisfactory; this particular consignment of Ice Cream was returned to the manufacturer.

ANALYSIS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES

Year	No. of samples	Grade				Percentage Satisfactory
		1	2	3	4	
1949	45	16	9	9	11	55.5%
1950	83	44	21	13	5	78.01%
1951	47	41	2	2	2	91.5%
1952	72	63	9	—	—	100%
1953	41	31	10	—	—	100%
1954	55	54	—	1	—	98%

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are 18 licensed camping sites in the Borough and these sites allow for 1,195 moveable dwellings plus 23 additional during the summer months. Individual caravans licensed number 29; 17 of these were permanently occupied, 5 were for the holiday period, and 6 were licensed for a temporary period whilst permanent homes were built on the plots. The remaining caravan licence was not operated. Approximately 20% of the caravans in Camp Sites are occupied permanently. Five of the licensed sites containing 392 moveable dwellings are used during the summer months only.

Progress in the provision of improved sanitary facilities at Camp Sites has not been too satisfactory, and the Council has had this matter under serious consideration. Steps have now been taken which it is anticipated will have the desired results. Temporary licences were issued in respect of seven sites where improved sanitary arrangements were required and the works were completed in 1954 in two instances, works are proceeding on other three sites and proposals have been submitted and approved in respect of the remaining two.

During the summer season unsatisfactory drainage of sanitary blocks occurred at one of the large Camp Sites, and considerable difficulty was experienced. Unfortunately this was a case where the camp site owner had spent a considerable sum in providing new permanent sanitary blocks, but the cesspool drainage was not successful.

Other defects were cases where the number of caravans on the site were in excess of the number permitted under the licences, nuisances arising from improper disposal of refuse, and defective drainage.

Generally speaking, however, there is a noticeable improvement in camp sites, both in appearance and in their sanitary condition. More attention is being given by the owners to proper supervision and there is reasonable co-operation between camp managements and the officers of the Health Department.

There is probably a floating population of over 4,000 people occupying the camp sites during the summer and therefore inspections of these sites must be maintained.

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during year :—

1. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	132
2. Number of inspections made for the purpose	422
3. Number of houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation	10
4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34
5. Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	28
6. Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
7. Number of Closing Orders made under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	1

422 inspections were made regarding house repairs and most were remedied during the year. Preliminary steps were taken by the Council to close a basement flat, but after representation being made by the owner, and the submission of works which the owner was prepared to do, these were accepted and the works as agreed have been completed. One house was closed under the Housing Act 1936 (Sec. 12), the family being rehoused by the Council. Two Clearance Areas were made comprising a block of 4 houses and a block of 3 houses. Agreement has been reached between the Council and the owners of the properties concerned, one for Compulsory Purchase and the other, proposals for partial demolition and the use of the remainder as stores, has been agreed. Two unfit dwellinghouses were dealt with informally. one has been demolished and the other is in process of demolition. In all cases the families have, or will be re-housed by the Council.

151 investigations were made regarding applications for Council houses and reports submitted to the Committee. Regarding allocation of Council houses, a total of 46 families living in overcrowded conditions were re-housed by the Council. Before allocations are made the particular families are visited and a report made for the consideration of the Committee. This method has worked very well, and many cases of real hardship have been relieved. Inspection, however, does show that the housing position of very many families remain difficult and private building does not seem to have helped the position very much. It seems that to provide homes in the foreseeable future for families at present unsatisfactorily housed, either the cost of private building will have to be considerably reduced to meet the lower income group, or much bigger allocations of Council houses will have to be given and the houses built more rapidly.

During 1954 a further 52 houses were built by the Council and 214 completed under private enterprise. The total number of houses owned by the Council and in occupation at 31st December, 1954, was 1,151 including the Fairlea Flats. All requisitioned properties had been vacated by 31st March, 1954.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table indicates the work carried out in the Borough under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	Business Industrial etc.	Total
1. No. of properties inspected during 1954 as a result of:—					
(a) notification or	1	282	2	34	319
(b) otherwise	18	347	43	104	512
2. No. of properties found to be infested by rats:					
Major ...	1	2	2	-	5
Minor ...	9	390	18	35	452
3. No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice	4	33	2	18	57
4. No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	10	424	-	45	479
5. No. of "block" control schemes carried out	-	8	-	3	11

The chief poison used is Warfarin both for rats and mice, approximately 90%. The other poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, Red Squill and Antu. A total of 1,782 poison baits have been laid. It is estimated that 4,245 rats and 262 mice have been destroyed.

The preceding involved 2,746 visits by the Rodent Officer. The office was notified of infestation by rats or mice in 319 instances, these being chiefly in respect of dwelling houses where free treatment is given.

The inspection of agricultural property has been stepped up a little now that the County Agricultural Committee has ceased operational work on farms.

LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATHS

The Sea Water Baths are kept under observation during the season and sampling carried out whilst the Swimming Pool was in use, and the reports in all cases were satisfactory. To check on the quality of the water prior to chlorination, a sample was taken whilst the bath was being filled from the river and the report showed the water to be contaminated by faecal matter, a sample taken after chlorination was quite satisfactory.

The pool is emptied and filled at midnight tide from the river, every fortnight and chlorination is carried out as required. I did suggest in my last report that an improved method of chlorination was desirable and I am glad to see that the Council has taken steps to deal with this important aspect of the Sea Water Baths.

This concludes the section of the report with which I am chiefly concerned, but I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Croft Watts for his help and guidance when we need it, and also for his interest in the staff of the Health Department. My thanks also to Mr. Jenkins who is always willing to do that little extra when required and assist in many ways to facilitate the smooth running of the Department.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

Lymington River is controlled by the Lymington Harbour Commissioners on which Board the Lymington Borough Council is represented.

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise vessels entering Port .	52	—
Vessels from Foreign parts	...	—

A position between Oxey Lake and Spit Buoy is the mooring station for suspected ships in the case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and Typhus. Other infectious diseases are regarded as exempt from detention. No infectious cases were reported during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The diseases notified were:—		1953	1954
Measles	... ..	638	3
Whooping Cough	... ..	22	85
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	3	3
Poliomyelitis	... ..	4	2
Scarlet Fever	... ..	75	19
Pneumonia	... ..	13	9
Typhoid Fever	... ..	1	—
Erysipelas	... ..	2	—
Dysentery	... ..	2	—
Food Poisoning	... ..	3	—

The Whooping Cough cases occurred chiefly in the second quarter of the year, dying out in the third quarter. The Scarlet Fever cases were all of a mild type. Both cases of Poliomyelitis were Paralytic, one aged 67 years died.

TUBERCULOSIS

19 new cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough were notified during the year, 14 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, a decrease of 9 over 1953. Three of these cases were transfers from other districts.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

124 children under the age of 5 years and 89 between 5 and 15 years received the completed protective treatment during the year. A further 603 children received boosting doses, these being done chiefly at the schools in the Borough. I am grateful to the head teachers for their help and co-operation.

From the records in my office the percentage of children under 5 years of age who have received the protective treatment is low, approximately 41.5% only. It is possible, of course, that I am not notified of all the children treated and the percentage may be a little higher. So far as children of school age are concerned there is a very satisfactory percentage who have had treatment, probably in the region of 90%.

CONCLUSION

From the above report it will be seen that the health of the residents in the Borough continues to be satisfactory.

In my annual report each year I have expressed my appreciation of the help and co-operation of Mr. Raw and the other members of the Health Department which makes the running of the Department so satisfactory and efficient. I again ask them to accept my sincere thanks for all the willing help they have given me in 1954.

As in previous years I must again thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support they have unfailingly given me.

E. CROFT WATTS,

Medical Officer of Health.